The Office for the Consecration of the New Church of Saint Augustine and the Blessing of the New Parish House

Norristown, Pennsylvania

At Evening Prayer, The Sunday Next Before Advent

November 23, 1930

Consecrator, The Rt. Rev. Francis M. Taitt, S. T. D.

Rector, The Rev. James M. Niblo

Processional: Hymn 530—"Onward, Christian Soldiers" . . . . . Sullivan

¶The Bishop, Clergy, Acolytes and Vestry having entered the Parish House, then shall the Bishop proceed to the blessing of the building.

V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with thy spirit.
Let us pray.

Blessed be Thy Name, O Lord, that it hath pleased Thee to put into the hearts of Thy servants to build and dedicate this Parish House to Thy glory and for the use of Thy people. Accept, we pray Thee, the offering of Thy servants and remember for good all who have contributed to this work. Let Thy blessing rest upon this House, that it may serve the purposes for which it is builded. Grant that here brotherly love and true fellowship may ever abound, and Thy people encourage one another in all good works, to the honor of Thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God, Who art the Chief Corner Stone of Thy Church, bless + this Building which is now completed in Thy Name, and grant that it may tend to promote Thy Glory, and the welfare of Thy people in this place. Fill those who shall frequent it with a spirit of love towards Thee and towards all mankind. Within these walls may harsh thoughts be ever subdued and unkind words unspoken, and may those who here learn the way of Thy statutes, walk before Thee with a perfect heart, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Heavenly Father, grant that Thy special blessing may rest upon our Church School held in this House. Grant to our teachers faithfulness, diligence and devotion, and to our scholars pure hearts and open minds, that they may be trained in Thy knowledge and love, to serve Thee faithfully in their generation and to find acceptance with Thee at the last; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen.

In the faith of Jesus Christ, we dedicate this Parish House to the Glory of God and to be a centre for the promotion of the welfare of the people of this community. In the Name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

¶The Bishop having been met at the Church Door, the Procession will move to the Chancel, saying Psalm XXIV.

Domini est terra.

The earth is the Lord's, and all that therein is; the compass of the world, and they that dwell therein.

2 For he hath founded it upon the seas, and stablished it upon the floods.

3 Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall rise up in his holy place?

4 Even he that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; and that hath not lift up his mind unto vanity, nor sworn to deceive his neighbour.

5 He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

6 This is the generation of them that seek him; even of them that seek thy face, O Jacob.

7 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

8 Who is this King of glory? It is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

10 Who is this King of glory? Even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

¶After the Instrument of Donation is presented, the Bishop standing and turning to the Congregation, shall say, Dearly beloved in the Lord; forasmuch as devout and holy men, as well under the Law as under the Gospel, moved either by the express command of God, or by the secret inspiration of the blessed Spirit, and acting agreeably to their own reason and sense of the natural decency of things, have erected houses for the public worship of God, and separated them from all unhallowed, worldly, and common uses, in order to fill men's minds with greater reverence for his glorious Majesty, and affect their hearts with more devotion and humility in his service; which pious works have been approved of and graciously accepted by our heavenly Father: Let us not doubt but that he will also favourably approve our godly purpose of setting apart this place in solemn manner, for the performance of the several Offices of religious worship, and let us faithfully and devoutly beg his blessing on this our undertaking.

¶*Then the Bishop, kneeling before the Altar, shall say the following Prayer.*

O Eternal God, mighty in power, and of majesty incomprehensible, whom the heaven of heavens cannot contain, much less the walls of temples made with hands; and who yet hast been graciously pleased to promise thy especial presence, wherever two or three of thy faithful servants shall assemble in thy Name, to offer up their praises and supplications unto thee; Vouchsafe, O Lord, to be present with us, who are here gathered together with all humility and readiness of heart, to consecrate this place to the honour of thy great Name; separating it henceforth from all unhallowed, ordinary, and common uses; and dedicating it to thy service, for reading thy holy Word, for celebrating thy holy Sacraments, for offering to thy glorious Majesty the sacrifices of prayer and thanksgiving, for blessing thy people in thy Name, and for all other holy offices: accept, O Lord, this service at our hands, and bless it with such success as may tend most to thy glory, and the furtherance of our happiness both temporal and spiritual; through Jesus Christ our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

¶*After this the Bishop shall stand up, and turning his face towards the Congregation, shall say:*

Regard, O Lord, the supplications of thy servants, and grant that whosoever in this house shall be received by Baptism into the congregation of Christ's flock, may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost, and may continue Christ's faithful soldier and servant unto his life's end. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that they who at this place shall in their own persons renew the promises and vows of their Baptism, and be Confirmed by the Bishop, may receive such a measure of thy Holy Spirit, that they may grow in grace unto their life's end. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall receive in this place the blessed Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, may come to that holy ordinance with faith, charity, and true repentance; and being filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, may, to their great and endless comfort, obtain remission of their sins, and all other benefits of his passion. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that by thy holy Word which shall be read and preached in this place, and by thy Holy Spirit grafting it inwardly in the heart, the hearers thereof may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and may have power and strength to fulfil the same. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be joined together in this place in the holy estate of Matrimony, may faithfully perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, and may remain in perfect love together unto their life's end. Amen.

Grant, we beseech thee, blessed Lord, that whosoever shall draw near to thee in this place, to give thee thanks for the benefits which they have received at thy hands, to set forth thy most worthy praise, to confess their sins unto thee, and to ask such things as are requisite and necessary, as well for the body as for the soul, may do it with such steadiness of faith, and with such seriousness, affection, and devotion of mind, that thou mayest accept their bounden duty and service, and vouchsafe to give whatever in thy infinite wisdom thou shalt see to be most expedient for them. All which we beg for Jesus Christ's sake, our most blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

¶Then shall be read the Sentence of Consecration.

Hymn 461—"Angel Voices, Ever Singing" ..... Sullivan

Sermon by the Rt. Rev. Francis M. Taitt, S.T.D.

Hymn 369—"The Cross Is On Our Brow" ..... Barnby

The Order of Confirmation: Prayer Book, Page 296

¶The Congregation remains standing until concluding prayers.

Hymn 370—"Thine For Ever! God of Love" ..... Pleyel

Address by the Rev. James M. Niblo, Rector

Offertory Hymn 459—"Jesus! Where'er Thy People Meet" ..... Hatton

Concluding Prayers and Blessing

Hymn 457—"Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation" ..... Smart

Saint Augustine's Church and Parish House